

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6565
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR EAID PO MZ
SUBJECT: MORE UPS AND DOWNS WITH MOZAMBIQUE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 2, MINFONAFF AFRICA DIVISION DIRECTOR PAULOIRO DAS NEVES STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOP DELEGATION AND THE GPRM IN MAPUTO ON MOZAMBIQUE BANK NATIONALIZATIONS WERE MAKING SOME PROGRESS. HOWEVER, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES AND THE FALL OF THE PS/CDS GOVERNMENT WILL PROLONG THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. NEVES STATED THAT THE DELEGATION HAD RECEIVED A CORDIAL WELCOME FROM THE GPRM. PRESIDENT MACHEL RECEIVED DELEGATION HEAD JORGE SAMPAIO, AND REITERATED MOZAMBIQUE'S DESIRE FOR INCREASED TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FOR LARGER NUMBERS OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS.

3. HOWEVER, GOP TRADE MINISTER BASILIO HORTA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR JULY 30 THAT THE GPRM, WHICH HAD INVITED HORTA TO LEAD THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO THE MOZAMBIQUE TRADE FAIR (FACIM), HAD DONE AN ABOUT-FACE. GPRM AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL ARMANDO PANGUENE HAD INVITED HORTA TO SPEAK AT THE FACIM OPENING CEREMONY, AND TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION IN MAPUTO. THEN, DURING THE WEEK OF JULY 23, HORTA RECEIVED A TELEX SUGGESTING THAT HE NOT

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ARRIVE BEFORE THE THIRD DAY OF THE FAIR AND INFORMING HIM THAT HE WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE GPRM TRADE MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE GPRM TURN-AROUND ON HORTA IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE HEAR OFTEN HAPPENS TO WESTERNERS IN MAPUTO; I.E., INVITATIONS ARE EXTENDED AND SCHEDULES FIXED, ONLY TO BE REVERSED; OR WHETHER IT IS

RELATED TO GPRM HESITANCY IN THE FACE OF THE CURRENT GOP CRISIS. THE GOP, HOWEVER, WILL CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ON POSITIVE ASPECTS OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GPRM AND PLAY DOWN THE NEGATIVE. AT ANY RATE, THE FALL OF THE PS/CDS GOVERNMENT WILL MOST LIKELY PRECLUDE HORTA'S ATTENDANCE AT FACIM.

BLOOMFIELD

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